HASSAN JEANNE M 10/24/81 135127 PRINTER: LI
80 KINGSTON 3082

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03082 290937Z
ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 SY-05 SYE-00 USSS-00 FBOE-00 A-02 PER-01
OCS-06 OC-06 CCO-00 DCT-02 /103 W
090470 291008Z /20

P 281320Z APR 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2508
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USINT HAVANA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/IR
REVIEWED BY CS DATE JUN 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3082
E.O. 12065: GDS 4/25/86 (LAWRENCE, L.) OR-AMB
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: "THE GOLD STREET MASSACRE" - CONVERSATIONS WITH POLICE OFFICIALS
REF: KINGSTON 2969

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: POLICE OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD EMBOFF THEIR VERSION OF WHAT HAPPENED DURING LAST SUNDAY MORNING'S SHOOTOUT IN EAST CENTRAL KINGSTON. THE POLICE AGREE THAT 10 TO 30 MEN DRESSED IN DARK CLOTHING AND CARRYING AT LEAST TWO SUB-MACHINE GUNS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK AND THAT IT WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. PERHAPS

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MOST DISTURBING OF ALL IS THE REVELATION THAT THE POLICE FEEL SO UNDERARMED AGAINST SUCH ATTACKERS THAT THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO ANSWER THE CALLS FOR HELP. END SUMMARY.

3. THE RSO, IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THREE DIFFERENT MEMBERS OF THE JAMAICA CONSTABULARY FORCE (JCF) REPORTS THE FOLLOWING ON LAST SUNDAY MORNING'S VIOLENCE (SEE REFTEL). NOW BEING CALLED THE "GOD STREET MASSACRE". [redacted] b (1) E.D

[redacted] TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE SUNDAY MORNING ATTACK WAS A DIRECT REPRISAL FOR THE ASSAULT ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY OF THE PREVIOUS SUNDAY (KINGSTON 2734). [redacted] b (1) E.D

[redacted] APPROXIMATELY TWELVE GUNMEN, CLAD IN BLACK AND ARMED WITH TWO SUB-MACHINE GUNDS (ESTIMATED TO BE .25 CALIBER WITH 2-1/2 INCH SHELL CASINGS) AS WELL AS A VARIETY OF HANDGUNS, APPROACHED THE JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP) DANCE

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80 KINGSTON 3082

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FROM THE HARBOUR AREA. [redacted] DENIED THAT THE ATTACKERS HAD ARRIVED BY BOAT AND, IN FACT, BELIEVES THAT THEY USED TWO VEHICLES. [redacted] THE ATTACKERS WERE NOT WANTONLY GUNNING WHOEVER HAPPENED TO BE THERE, BUT WERE SEARCHING FOR SPECIFIC JLP ACTIVISTS. THE POLICE OFFICIAL ALSO INDICATED HE KNEW WHO HAD PERPETRATED THE ATTACK AND GAVE THE "STREET NAMES" OF SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE "TEL AVIV" GANG LED BY CARL THOMPSON.

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4. IN A FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH A MID-LEVEL OFFICER FROM THE CENTRAL POLICE DIVISION WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT, THE RSO RECEIVED ESSENTIALLY THE SAME ACCOUNT OF THE NIGHT'S EVENTS THOUGH CERTAIN DETAILS WERE MODIFIED. THE INVESTIGATORS BELIEVE THAT ABOUT TWENTY PERSONS WERE INVOLVED IN THE ATTACK AND THAT WHILE THEY ALL WERE DRESSED IN DARK-COLORED CLOTHING, THEY WERE NOT WEARING MILITARY-STYLE FATIGUES. THE INVESTIGATOR

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PAGE 03 KINGST 03082 2909372

ALSO BELIEVES THAT MORE PEOPLE WERE NOT KILLED BECAUSE WHEN THE SHOOTING STARTED, EVERYONE RAN IN ALL DIRECTIONS LEAVING VERY FEW TARGETS FOR THE GUNMEN.

5. AS A COROLLARY TO THESE TWO REPORTS, THE RSO ALSO SPOKE WITH A CONSTABLE WHO WAS ON DUTY WHEN THE INCIDENT OCCURRED. HE AND HIS PARTNER WERE IN A PATROL CAR WHICH WAS DIRECTED TO THE AREA WHEN THE WEAPONS FIRE WAS REPORTED. LEARNING THAT AUTOMATIC WEAPONS WERE BEING EMPLOYED BY THE ATTACKERS, THE TWO POLICEMEN DECIDED NOT TO RESPOND TO THE CALL AS THEY WERE ONLY ARMED WITH SIDEARMS. NEITHER OF THEM WISHED TO ENGAGE IN A SUICIDAL BATTLE AGAINST SUPERIOR WEAPONS.

6. COMMENT: THE INFORMATION, COMING AS IT DOES FROM POLICE AT SEVERAL LEVELS, TENDS TO CONFIRM PRESS REPORTS, THOUGH THE POLICE ESTIMATES OF 12 TO 30 ATTACKERS IS WELL BELOW THE 100 ESTIMATED BY ONE NEWSPAPER AND OPPOSITION LEADER SEAGA. [redacted] ALSO WARNED THAT THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IS CERTAIN TO INCREASE AND EXPRESSED HIS FEAR THAT THE POLICE WILL GET CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE. WHILE THE MORE EXAGGERATED REPORTS OF THE PARTISAN PRESS ARE SCALED DOWN TO SIZE BY THESE CONVERSATIONS, THERE IS STILL A FEELING OF UNEASE AMONG THE POLICE ABOUT THE WELL-ORGANIZED NATURE OF THE ATTACK AND WHAT IT AUGURS FOR THE FUTURE OF LAW AND ORDER IN JAMAICA.

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